

ABSTRACT

An access control system (10) is disclosed for controlling access to data stored on at least one data storage medium (14) of a computing system. The access control system (10) comprises authentication means (25) to authenticate users permitted to access data stored in the at least one data storage medium (14) and database means (29) arranged to store data access profiles. Each data access profile is associated with a user permitted to access data stored in the at least one data storage medium (14), each data access profile includes information indicative of the degree of access permitted by a user to data stored in the at least one data storage medium (14), and each data access profile includes a master data access profile (M) and a current data access profile (C). The current data access profile (C) is modifiable within parameters defined by the master data access profile (M).